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ABSTRACT

A study was conducted using enrollment and program completion data for fiscal years (FY's) 1984 through 1987 to analyze female student participation at the Illinois public community colleges. Study findings included the following: (1) female students comprised 57.7% of the colleges' enrollments over the 4 years of the study, representing 51% of all full-time students and nearly 60% of all part-time students; (2) female enrollments outnumbered male enrollments in the areas of cosmetology, home and institutional services, health, and business, while that trend was reversed in the occupational areas of trade and industrial programs, engineering technology, agriculture/horticulture, and public/protective services; (3) more females than males completed degrees and certificates in every degree category except Associate in Science and Associate in General Studies; and (4) a comparison of enrollments with program completions show a lower percentage of women completers in the baccalaureate/transfer and general studies areas. While the relatively high percentage of female enrollment and completions indicated that community colleges were serving females well, community colleges can play a greater role in encouraging female students to establish higher career and educational goals and in providing a sound educational foundation for attaining these goals. (EJV)

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FEMALE STUDENT PARTICIPATION AT ILLINOIS PUBLIC COMMUNITY COLLEGES

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FEMALE STUDENT PARTICIPATION AT ILLINOIS PUBLIC COMMUNITY COLLEGES

Public Act 84-726 requires the Illinois Board of Higher Education (IBHE) to monitor the participation and success of minority, female, and handicapped students within higher education institutions in Illinois. As a result, the IBHE passed a resolution requiring all colleges and universities to develop institutional goals that would increase the participation and success of minority, female, and handicapped students and to submit periodic reports on the progress being made in achieving these goals. In addition, the Illinois Community College Board (ICCB) is required to report on the status of minority, female, and handicapped students enrolled at community colleges and the special programs that have been developed to assist these special populations in completing their programs of study. ICCB reports published in September 1986 and March 1987 analyzed minority and handicapped participation in Illinois public community colleges. The purpose of this report is to analyze the enrollment and program completion of female students in Illinois public community colleges using data currently on the ICCB computerized data system. Enrollment and program completion data for fiscal years 1984 through 1987 are used in the analysis. The results in this report will be used as baseline information for monitoring future trends in female participation in the community college system of Illinois.

BACKGROUND

In 1952, there were three male students to each female student enrolled in the public community college system in America. In 1968, a typical community college had two male students to each female student. In a 1968 Illinois Board of Higher Education study, 62 percent of the community college students were males (Monroe, p. 187). Since that time, the percentage of females participating at all levels of education has increased steadily. By 1976 female students constituted 52.7 percent of community college enrollments and 46.6 percent of public university enrollments in Illinois.

The percentage of female students enrolled in higher education declines between each successive level of education from community college undergraduate education to doctoral and professional education. Female representation at the doctoral and professional degree levels of education continues to be substantially lower than at other levels of education. In addition, female participation is especially low in some fields of study, particularly engineering (IBHE, September 1986).

FEMALE STUDENT ENROLLMENT

Female students comprised 57.7 percent of all students enrolled in the public community colleges of Illinois during fiscal years 1984 through 1987. During fiscal year 1987, female students outnumbered males at all but two of the fifty community colleges. At five colleges females comprised at least two-thirds of the total enrollment (see Table A). Females outnumbered males

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Table A

1986 Fall Opening Enrollment
By Sex

Dist. No.	District/ College Name	Male N	Male %	Female N	Female %	Total
501	Kaskaskia	1224	39.0%	1918	61.0%	3142
502	DuPage	9907	42.8%	13248	57.2%	23155
503	Black Hawk	(2618)	42.9%	(3484)	57.1%	(6102)
	Quad Cities	2321	43.4%	3032	56.6%	5353
	East	297	39.7%	452	60.3%	749
504	Triton	8551	47.9%	9320	52.1%	17871
505	Parkland	3240	42.1%	4399	57.9%	7639
506	Sauk Valley	1195	45.7%	1419	54.3%	2614
507	Danville	1150	39.1%	1795	60.9%	2945
508	Chicago	(37499)	42.0%	(51779)	58.0%	(89278)
	Kennedy-King	4180	38.5%	6682	61.5%	10862
	Loop	3071	34.8%	5761	65.2%	8832
	Malcolm X	5477	48.3%	5852	51.7%	11329
	Truman	7023	45.3%	8474	54.7%	15497
	Olive-Harvey	3289	38.6%	5224	61.4%	8513
	Daley	3444	37.4%	5773	62.6%	9217
	Wilbur Wright	3506	38.9%	5514	61.1%	9020
	City-Wide	7509	46.9%	8499	53.1%	16008
509	Elgin	2460	44.6%	3057	55.4%	5517
510	Thornton	2318	35.8%	4156	64.2%	6474
511	Rock Valley	3545	44.3%	4454	55.7%	7999
512	Harper	6565	41.2%	9389	58.8%	15954
513	Illinois Valley	1748	44.0%	2223	56.0%	3971
514	Illinois Central	5410	44.5%	6761	55.5%	12171
515	Prairie State	1988	45.4%	2394	54.6%	4382
516	Waubonsee	2063	43.0%	2732	57.0%	4795
517	Lake Land	1617	43.6%	2091	56.4%	3708
518	Carl Sandburg	879	36.0%	1560	64.0%	2439
519	Highland	1060	36.8%	1823	63.2%	2883
520	Kankakee	1282	37.4%	2149	62.6%	3431
521	Rend Lake	1822	56.7%	1393	43.3%	3215
522	Belleville	5146	45.2%	6236	54.8%	11382
523	Kishwaukee	1376	46.9%	1561	53.1%	2937
524	Moraine Valley	5507	43.1%	7269	56.9%	12776
525	Joliet	3919	42.1%	5384	57.9%	9303
526	Lincoln Land	3209	42.6%	4329	57.4%	7538
527	Morton	1449	44.1%	1838	55.9%	3287
528	McHenry	1358	40.7%	1983	59.3%	3341
529	Illinois Eastern	(3633)	39.2%	(5636)	60.8%	(9269)
	Lincoln Trail	451	33.4%	900	66.6%	1351
	Olney Central	596	29.1%	1455	70.9%	2051
	Wabash Valley	1497	64.0%	841	36.0%	2338
	Frontier	1089	30.9%	2440	69.1%	3529
530	Logan	1534	39.6%	2336	60.4%	3870
531	Shawnee	544	24.7%	1656	75.3%	2200
532	Lake County	5007	44.3%	6302	55.7%	11309
533	Southeastern	1203	50.5%	1180	49.5%	2383
534	Spoon River	693	38.3%	1116	61.7%	1809
535	Oakton	4640	43.0%	6164	57.0%	10804
536	Lewis & Clark	1797	36.6%	3117	63.4%	4914
537	Richland	1312	40.4%	1937	59.6%	3249
539	John Wood	1243	35.5%	2261	64.5%	3504
601	State Comm. Coll.	421	31.8%	903	68.2%	1324
	TOTALS	142132	42.4%	192752	57.6%	334884

SOURCE OF DATA: Fall Enrollment (E1 Records) - reflects enrollment as of the 10th day of the fall term. Will not reflect enrollments in courses that have a starting date later than the 10th day.

in all age categories and in both part-time and full-time enrollment classifications. Over the past four years female students comprised 51.1 percent of all full-time students and 60.3 percent of all part-time students (see Table B). The proportion of female students increases as the age of the students increases. In fiscal year 1987 females comprised 52.4 percent of the students age 17 to 20 and 67.8 percent of the students over the age of 55 (see Table C). The median age of female students was 29 years, four months compared to 26 years for males.

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Table B

Fall Opening Enrollment by Enrollment Status and Sex
Fiscal Years 1984 Through 1987

Fiscal Year	Full-time		Part-time	
	Male	Female	Male	Female
1984	53,543 (49.5%)	54,623 (50.5%)	98,458 (39.6%)	150,019 (60.4%)
1985	50,698 (49.3%)	52,180 (50.7%)	101,722 (39.4%)	156,587 (60.6%)
1986	49,299 (48.3%)	49,502 (51.7%)	96,698 (39.6%)	147,283 (60.4%)
1987	46,586 (48.3%)	49,686 (51.7%)	95,746 (40.1%)	143,066 (59.9%)

Enrollment by Program of Study

The most recent data concerning female participation in Illinois community college education by program of study are summarized in Table D. Although females outnumbered their male counterparts in all five program areas presented in this table, there are differences in their share of enrollment among the areas.

During fiscal years 1984 through 1987, the highest proportion of female students occurred in the program area of general studies (67.8 percent) and the lowest proportion of female students were enrolled in the remedial/adult basic/adult secondary education program area (51.8 percent). In the general studies program area, however, the proportion of females has been decreasing each year. In the fall of fiscal year 1984, females comprised 68.9 percent of the general studies enrollment. By the fall of fiscal year 1987, this percentage had decreased to 65.6 percent with the sharpest decrease occurring between fiscal years 1986 and 1987. Likewise, the proportion of female students enrolled in the remedial/adult basic/adult secondary program areas decreased slightly from 52.5 percent in fiscal year 1984 to 51.4 percent in fiscal year 1987.

In the baccalaureate/transfer area 57.2 percent of the students were females. Between fiscal years 1984 and 1987, the percent of female students enrolling in baccalaureate/transfer programs increased slightly from 56.7 percent to

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Table C

Fall Opening Enrollment by Age and Sex
Fiscal Years 1986 and 1987

Age	Fiscal Year 1986				Fiscal Year 1987			
	Male		Female		Male		Female	
	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%
Under 17	790	(50.2)	783	(49.8)	135	(56.7)	103	(43.3)
17-20	42,142	(48.5)	44,776	(51.5)	30,617	(47.6)	33,767	(52.4)
21-24	26,755	(47.0)	30,154	(53.0)	32,125	(49.4)	32,965	(50.6)
25-30	27,880	(44.8)	34,363	(55.2)	28,490	(44.6)	35,392	(55.4)
31-39	22,727	(37.9)	37,165	(62.1)	25,975	(39.1)	40,476	(60.9)
40-55	12,587	(31.9)	26,830	(68.1)	15,178	(32.8)	31,113	(67.2)
Over 55	6,638	(30.8)	14,905	(69.2)	6,822	(32.2)	14,355	(67.8)
Unknown	3,478	(30.8)	7,809	(69.2)	2,790	(37.9)	4,581	(62.1)
Total Reported	142,997	(42.1)	196,785	(57.9)	142,132	(42.4)	192,752	(57.6)
Median Age	25		28		26.25		29.42	

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Table D

Fall Opening Enrollment by Program Area and Sex
Fiscal Years 1984 Through 1987

Program Area		Fiscal Year 1984		Fiscal Year 1985		Fiscal Year 1986		Fiscal Year 1987	
		Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female
Baccalaureate/ Transfer 1.1	N	57,130	75,174	55,888	73,344	51,649	71,186	49,343	66,403
	%	(43.2)	(56.8)	(43.2)	(56.8)	(42.1)	(57.9)	(42.6)	(57.4)
Occupational 1.2	N	55,455	66,533	50,645	61,733	47,999	60,753	49,713	64,282
	%	(45.5)	(54.5)	(45.1)	(54.9)	(44.1)	(55.9)	(43.6)	(56.4)
General Studies 1.5	N	12,443	27,590	15,687	34,482	13,207	27,225	12,311	23,461
	%	(31.1)	(68.9)	(31.3)	(68.7)	(32.7)	(67.3)	(34.4)	(65.6)
Vocational Skills 1.6	N	6,457	10,068	8,220	14,463	8,985	14,960	8,716	15,294
	%	(39.1)	(60.9)	(36.2)	(63.8)	(37.5)	(62.5)	(36.3)	(63.7)
Remedial 1.4, ABE 1.7, ASE 1.8	N	14,197	15,672	18,883	20,209	20,542	22,010	21,994	23,246
	%	(47.5)	(52.5)	(48.3)	(51.7)	(48.3)	(51.7)	(48.6)	(51.4)
Unknown	N	6,319	9,605	3,097	4,536	588	678	55	66
	%	(39.7)	(60.3)	(40.6)	(59.4)	(46.5)	(53.5)	(45.4)	(54.5)
Total	N	152,001	204,642	152,420	208,767	142,970	196,812	142,132	192,752
	%	(42.6)	(57.4)	(42.2)	(57.8)	(42.1)	(57.9)	(42.4)	(57.6)

57.4 percent. In the occupational program area the proportion of female students enrolled for fiscal years 1984 through 1987 averaged 55.4 percent. There was an increase each year in female representation in this program area with females comprising 54.5 percent in fiscal year 1984 and 56.4 percent in fiscal year 1987. The percent of the students enrolled in vocational skills courses remained very steady at around 63.0 percent.

In summary, female student percentages, when compared to male percentages, were highest in general studies (67.8 percent) followed by vocational skills (62.9 percent), baccalaureate/transfer (57.2 percent), occupational (55.4 percent), and remedial/adult basic/adult secondary (51.8 percent). During the four-year period female representation increased each year in the occupational program area, decreased in the general studies and remedial/adult basic/adult secondary areas, and fluctuated in the baccalaureate/transfer area. In the latter area in which representation fluctuated, the percentage of females was higher in fiscal year 1987 than in fiscal year 1984.

Enrollment By Occupational Program

The proportion of female students in specific occupational areas was examined for fiscal years 1984 through 1986 (see Table E). Nine specific program areas were analyzed. Due to a relatively small number of students enrolled in the program areas of legal assisting, technical writing, library assisting, recreation, science technology, and visual and performing arts, these areas were grouped together in a tenth category entitled "other." Because of the variety of programs in this area and a coding change between 1985 and 1986, the female participation in this area cannot be analyzed accurately. Data for fiscal years 1984 through 1986 showed the following female student percentages for each occupational program area: cosmetology (91.9 percent), health (87.9 percent), home and institutional services (85.5 percent), business (67.5 percent), public/protective services (32.7 percent), communication (32.5 percent), agriculture/horticulture (30.9 percent), engineering technology (10.3 percent), and trade/industrial (6.9 percent).

The proportion of females has increased in five of these program areas over the last three years. While female enrollment in the agriculture/horticulture area remained relatively low, the percentage of females increased from 28.9 percent in fiscal year 1984 to 33.8 percent in fiscal year 1986. Engineering technology also represented one of the program areas with a constant increase in the percent of females enrolled. The proportion of females enrolled in this area increased from 9.0 percent in fiscal year 1984 to 12.7 percent in fiscal year 1986. Of the nine occupational programs analyzed, the area of business enrolled the largest number of students, both female and male, during all three years. Between fiscal years 1984 and 1986, the percent of female students enrolled in the business area showed an increase from 65.8 percent to 69.4 percent. Although enrollment in public and protective services has declined over the last three years, the decline has been smaller for females than males resulting in an increased percentage of females. In fiscal year 1984 females comprised 32.2 percent of the public and protective services enrollment compared to 34.5 percent in fiscal year 1986. In the trade and industrial program area, the percentage of females increased

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Table E

Fall Opening Occupational Program Enrollments by Sex
Fiscal Years 1984 Through 1986

Program		Fiscal Year 1984 Male	Fiscal Year 1984 Female	Fiscal Year 1985 Male	Fiscal Year 1985 Female	Fiscal Year 1986 Male	Fiscal Year 1986 Female
Agriculture/Horticulture	N	1,723	702	1,571	673	1,468	751
	%	(71.1)	(28.9)	(70.0)	(30.0)	(66.2)	(33.8)
Business	N	19,711	38,010	16,623	34,576	15,168	34,415
	%	(34.2)	(65.8)	(32.5)	(67.5)	(30.6)	(69.4)
Communication	N	533	269	508	236	410	196
	%	(66.5)	(33.5)	(68.3)	(31.7)	(67.7)	(32.3)
Cosmetology	N	65	739	68	828	71	746
	%	(8.1)	(91.9)	(7.6)	(92.4)	(8.7)	(91.3)
Engineering Technology	N	8,392	832	7,606	764	9,347	1,365
	%	(91.0)	(9.0)	(90.9)	(9.1)	(87.3)	(12.7)
Health	N	2,308	16,799	2,266	15,906	1,819	13,708
	%	(12.1)	(87.9)	(12.5)	(87.5)	(11.7)	(88.3)
Home/Institutional Services	N	648	4,231	782	4,472	960	5,358
	%	(13.3)	(86.7)	(14.9)	(85.1)	(15.2)	(84.8)
Public/Protective Services	N	4,874	2,311	4,431	2,048	4,146	2,179
	%	(67.8)	(32.2)	(68.4)	(31.6)	(65.5)	(34.5)
Trade/Industrial	N	16,010	1,489	15,150	1,459	14,354	1,606
	%	(91.5)	(8.5)	(91.2)	(8.8)	(89.9)	(10.1)
Other	N	1,191	1,151	1,640	771	256	429
	%	(50.9)	(49.1)	(68.0)	(32.0)	(37.4)	(62.6)
Total	N	55,455	66,533	50,645	61,733	47,999	60,753
	%	(45.5)	(54.5)	(45.1)	(54.9)	(44.1)	(55.9)

from 8.5 percent to 10.1 percent. This increase is due to an increasing number of females and a decreasing number of males enrolling in this program area.

Females comprised a large proportion of the enrollments in health, cosmetology, and home and institutional services programs. In health and cosmetology, the percentages of females have changed very little over the three years with females representing 87.9 percent of health enrollment in fiscal year 1984 and 88.3 percent in fiscal year 1986. For those same years females comprised 91.9 percent and 91.3 percent of the cosmetology students. In home and institutional services, the number of students has increased over the last three years. However, the number of male students has increased at a faster rate resulting in a slight decrease in the percentage of female students - 86.7 percent in fiscal year 1984 compared to 84.8 percent in fiscal year 1986.

A decline in the percentage of females was also experienced in the communications program area from 33.5 percent in fiscal year 1984 to 32.3 percent in fiscal year 1986. This is the only area in which females are underrepresented that has not experienced an increase in the proportion of females enrolled during the three-year period.

In summary, females were overrepresented during the three years in the program areas of cosmetology (91.9 percent), health (87.9 percent), home and institutional services (85.5 percent), and business (67.5 percent), but were underrepresented in the program areas of trade/industrial (9.1 percent), engineering technology (10.5 percent), public/protective services (32.7 percent), communications (32.6 percent), and agriculture/horticulture (30.9 percent). However, there has been an increase in the proportion of females enrolled in agriculture/horticulture, engineering technology, trade and industrial, and public/protective services over the three-year period.

FEMALE STUDENT COMPLETION

Completion by Degree Type

The data presented in this section examined annual female completions by general degree and certificate type for fiscal years 1984 through 1986 (see Table F). The analysis of the data for these three years revealed that female students comprised the following proportions of each of the degree and certificate categories: Associate in Applied Science degrees (60.0 percent), the Associate in Arts degrees (59.0 percent), occupational certificates (60.9 percent), other certificates (54.4 percent), Associate in General Studies degrees (49.4 percent), and Associate in Science degrees (48.8 percent).

Female students earned 55.3 percent of the baccalaureate/transfer degrees awarded between fiscal years 1984 and 1986. Females earned 54.4 percent of the baccalaureate/transfer degrees in fiscal year 1984, 55.2 percent in fiscal year 1985, and 56.0 percent in fiscal year 1986. Examination of specific baccalaureate/transfer degrees (Associate in Arts and Associate in Science) revealed differences in the percentages of females earning degrees.

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Table F

Program Completion by Degree Type and Sex
Fiscal Years 1984 Through 1986

Degree		Fiscal Year 1984		Fiscal Year 1985		Fiscal Year 1986	
		Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female
Associate in Arts	N	2,559	3,528	2,166	3,126	2,605	3,880
	%	(42.0)	(58.0)	(40.9)	(59.1)	(40.2)	(59.8)
Associate in Science	N	1,609	1,445	1,661	1,624	1,903	1,859
	%	(52.7)	(47.3)	(50.6)	(49.4)	(50.6)	(49.4)
Associate in General Studies	N	61	62	173	183	288	265
	%	(50.0)	(50.0)	(48.6)	(51.4)	(52.1)	(47.9)
Associate in Applied Science	N	4,107	6,109	4,184	6,302	4,222	6,334
	%	(40.2)	(59.8)	(39.9)	(60.1)	(40.0)	(60.0)
Occupational Certificates	N	2,844	4,666	2,737	4,345	3,527	5,183
	%	(37.9)	(62.1)	(38.7)	(61.3)	(40.5)	(59.5)
Other	N	224	246	120	153	105	136
	%	(47.7)	(52.3)	(44.0)	(56.0)	(43.6)	(56.4)
Total	N	11,404	16,056	11,104	15,733	12,650	17,657
	%	(41.5)	(58.5)	(41.2)	(58.8)	(41.7)	(58.3)

Fifty-nine percent of the Associate in Arts (AA) degrees were earned by women compared to only 48.8 percent of the Associate in Science (AS) degrees. In each of these degree categories the proportion of females has increased since fiscal year 1984 with females comprising 58.0 percent of the fiscal year 1984 and 59.8 percent of the fiscal year 1986 AA degrees and 47.3 percent and 49.4 percent of the AS degree recipients for those same years.

Fewer female students (49.4 percent) graduated with Associate in General Studies degrees than did male students. Between fiscal years 1984 and 1986, the percentage of female students receiving this degree fluctuated from 50.0 percent in fiscal year 1984 to 51.4 percent in fiscal year 1985 to 47.9 percent in fiscal year 1986.

Overall, from fiscal year 1984 to fiscal year 1986, more female students graduated with Associate in Applied Science degrees than male students. An examination of the proportion of female students receiving the Associate in Applied Science degree revealed that female students comprised approximately 60.0 percent of the graduates each of the three years. The percentage of female students receiving occupational certificates decreased from 62.1 percent in fiscal year 1984 to 59.5 percent in fiscal year 1986.

Completions by Occupational Degrees and Certificates

The data presented in this section examine the proportion of female students completing nine specific occupational program areas for fiscal year 1984 through 1986 (see Table G). The "other" area is comprised of the program areas of legal assisting, technical writing, library assisting, recreation, science technology, and visual and performing arts. As with enrollment data, this category is included for completeness of the data and will not be discussed. Analysis of specific occupational data for these three years revealed that the following proportion of female students completed each of these program areas: cosmetology (94.7 percent), home and institutional services (84.6 percent), health (90.1 percent), business (69.5 percent), agriculture (20.5 percent), public/protective services (28.6 percent), communications (28.9 percent), engineering technology (8.3 percent), and trade and industrial (8.4 percent).

The proportion of degrees and certificates earned by females increased each year in business (65.5, 70.0, and 73.2 percent), health (88.6, 90.5, and 91.6 percent), home and institutional services (82.5, 85.4, and 85.8 percent), and trade and industrial (6.8, 8.6, and 10.0 percent). In the area of communications the proportion of female graduates decreased each year from 31.5 to 28.2 to 25.9 percent.

COMPARISON OF ENROLLMENTS AND COMPLETIONS

Although there are some interpretation problems with comparing enrollment percentages to completion percentages, some general insights can be gained through this type of analysis. In general, in the baccalaureate/transfer area the percentage of graduates who were females tended to be slightly lower than female representation in baccalaureate/transfer enrollments (see Table H). This could indicate retention rates for females in this program area are lower than those of their male counterparts. However, this could also be due to more females enrolling on a part-time basis, transferring earlier than males, or having other objectives for enrolling.

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Table H

Female Student Percent of Program Area
Enrollment and Completions
Fiscal Years 1984 Through 1986

Fiscal Year	Program Area					
	Baccalaureate/Transfer		Occupational		General Studies	
	Enrollment	Completion	Enrollment	Completion	Enrollment	Completion
1984	56.7%	54.4%	54.5%	58.6%	68.9%	50.0%
1985	56.8%	55.4%	61.2%	55.9%	68.7%	51.4%
1986	57.9%	56.0%	55.9%	62.7%	67.3%	47.9%

Illinois Community College Board

Table G

Occupational Program Completion by Sex
Fiscal Years 1984 Through 1986

Program		Fiscal Year 1984		Fiscal Year 1985		Fiscal Year 1986	
		Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female
Agriculture	N	382	94	358	90	380	105
	%	(76.7)	(23.3)	(79.9)	(20.1)	(78.4)	(21.6)
Business	N	1,963	3,729	1,676	3,907	1,479	4,041
	%	(34.5)	(65.5)	(30.0)	(70.0)	(26.8)	(73.2)
Communication	N	85	39	61	24	63	22
	%	(68.5)	(31.5)	(71.8)	(28.2)	(74.1)	(25.9)
Cosmetology	N	28	344	15	343	14	323
	%	(7.3)	(92.7)	(4.2)	(95.8)	(4.2)	(95.8)
Engineering Tech	N	1,021	93	928	73	994	102
	%	(91.7)	(8.3)	(92.7)	(7.3)	(90.7)	(9.3)
Health	N	678	5,268	518	4,929	431	4,677
	%	(11.4)	(88.6)	(9.5)	(90.5)	(8.4)	(91.6)
Home/Institution	N	128	602	115	671	112	676
	%	(17.5)	(82.5)	(14.6)	(85.4)	(14.2)	(85.8)
Public/Protective Services	N	677	263	593	225	596	260
	%	(72.0)	(28.0)	(72.5)	(27.5)	(69.6)	(30.4)
Trade/Industrial	N	2,612	192	2,397	226	2,154	239
	%	(93.2)	(6.8)	(91.4)	(8.6)	(90.0)	(10.0)
Other	N	48	141	38	99	6	42
	%	(25.4)	(74.6)	(27.7)	(72.3)	(12.5)	(87.5)
Total	N	7,622	10,765	6,699	10,587	6,229	10,487
	%	(41.4)	(58.6)	(38.8)	(61.2)	(37.3)	(62.7)

In the occupational areas, the reverse was true. The percentage of female students receiving Associate in Applied Science degrees and occupational certificates was greater than their share of occupational enrollments.

The greatest differences in enrollment and completion percentages for females occurred in the general studies area where the female representation in enrollment was significantly higher than it was among completers of the Associate in General Studies degree. While the enrollment data presented include general studies course enrollments as well as enrollments in degree programs, a comparison of only degree program enrollments with degree recipients revealed that the trend was similar.

The specific occupational program areas that revealed a lower percent of female students graduating when compared to those enrolling were the areas of agriculture/horticulture, communication, engineering technology, and public/protective services. The areas where the female graduation percents were higher than their enrollment percents were the areas of business, cosmetology, and health (see Table I). In the home and institutional services area and the trade and industrial area, the percentages of enrollments and completions were similar. In general, in programs where females were underrepresented in enrollments they were represented to an even lesser extent for completions. The reverse was found in program areas of high female representation.

SPECIAL SERVICES

Several colleges are providing special services for women. A 1986 study of student service programs in Illinois community colleges showed that thirty-seven colleges offer some form of child care services or have a child development center. Twenty-six community colleges have established Women Service Centers and/or Women Counseling Services. Displaced homemaker services are provided by five community colleges (ICCB, November 1986).

CONCLUSIONS

The examination of enrollment data showed that female students comprised 57.7 percent of Illinois community college enrollments over the four-year period, fiscal years 1984 through 1987. Female students comprised nearly 52 percent of all full-time students and nearly 60 percent of all part-time students. The median age of female students enrolled in Illinois community colleges during the fall term of fiscal year 1987 was 29 years and four months compared to 26 years for male students. Overall, the average age of community college students is increasing with the female student population showing the greatest increase. Female students comprised almost two thirds of the enrollment in the program areas of general studies and vocational skills. The percent of females in the baccalaureate/transfer and occupational program areas was similar to their representation in the overall student population.

Illinois Community College Board

Table I

Female Student Percent of Occupational Program Area
Enrollment and Completions
Fiscal Years 1984 Through 1986

	Fiscal Year 1984		Fiscal Year 1985		Fiscal Year 1986	
Program Area	Enrollment	Completion	Enrollment	Completion	Enrollment	Completion
Agriculture/ Horticulture	28.9%	23.3%	30.0%	20.1%	33.8%	21.6%
Business	65.8%	65.5%	67.5%	70.0%	69.4%	73.2%
Communications	33.5%	31.5%	31.7%	28.2%	32.3%	25.9%
Cosmetology	91.9%	92.7%	92.4%	95.8%	91.3%	95.8%
Engineering Technology	9.0%	8.3%	9.1%	7.3%	12.7%	9.3%
Health	87.9%	88.6%	87.5%	90.5%	88.3%	91.6%
Home/Institutional Services	86.7%	82.5%	85.1%	85.4%	84.8%	85.8%
Public/Protective Services	32.2%	28.0%	31.6%	27.5%	34.5%	30.4%
Trade/Industrial	8.5%	6.8%	8.8%	8.6%	10.1%	10.0%
Other	49.1%	74.6%	32.0%	72.3%	62.6%	87.5%
TOTAL	54.5%	58.6%	54.9%	61.2%	55.9%	62.7%

An examination of specific occupational program areas revealed that females outnumbered males in the areas of cosmetology, home and institutional services, health, and business. Fewer females than males enrolled in the occupational areas of trade and industrial, engineering technology, agriculture/horticulture, and public/protective services.

An examination of the completion data showed that more females than males completed degrees and certificates in every degree category except Associate in Science (AS) and Associate in General Studies. However, the percentage of AS degrees earned by females increased slightly during fiscal years 1985 and 1986.

Although female students outnumber male students in several occupational areas, they are very much underrepresented in both enrollment and completion in the occupational program areas of trade and industrial, agriculture/horticulture, engineering technology, and public/protective services. Community colleges should promote more female enrollments in these areas.

The study showed that female students in Illinois community colleges comprised nearly 57 percent of enrollments and over 54.0 percent of the completions in the baccalaureate/transfer area. However, in the specific baccalaureate/transfer degrees, females earned 59.0 percent of all Associate in Arts degrees and only 48.8 percent of all Associate in Science degrees. This finding corresponds with results found in other studies mentioned previously in this report. These studies showed low female enrollment and completion in math and science programs at the baccalaureate and graduate levels. Future efforts should be geared toward encouraging the female student to enroll in and complete Associate in Science and later Bachelor of Science and graduate degree programs in the math and science areas. Career opportunities in engineering, mathematics, and pure and applied science areas should be stressed in career counseling.

A comparison of enrollments with completions shows a lower percentage of women completers in the baccalaureate/transfer and general studies areas. This finding is difficult to interpret without further examination. A study designed to address retention is needed to more clearly identify whether this is an area of concern.

Community college officials have been and should continue to be concerned about services needed by female students if they are to persist and complete their educational endeavors. At the present time several colleges are providing special services for women. According to the data presented in this study, such services are justifiable considering the large percent of female students enrolled in community colleges.

While the relatively high percentage of female enrollment and completions indicate community colleges are serving females well, the fact that female representation declines with successive levels of education presents an area of concern. Since most students are setting their educational and career goals during their first two years in college, community colleges can play an important role in encouraging female students to establish higher goals educational and career and in providing a sound educational foundation for attaining them.

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